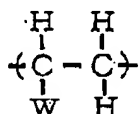


(B) Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A functionalized polymer consisting of repeating units represented by the following formula ~~having a structure represented by the following formula (1):~~



wherein, W denotes a carbohydrate chain including a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group, ~~X, Y and Z denotes any substituent group including a hydrogen atom, and n denotes the number of repeating units of at least 1.~~

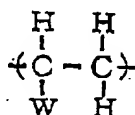
Claim 2 (Original): A functionalized polymer in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said carbohydrate chain is a decomposed carbohydrate chain obtained by chemical decomposition of a natural glycosaminoglycan, and said decomposed carbohydrate chain is bonded to the polymer main chain via a functional group formed by said chemical decomposition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A functionalized polymer in accordance with claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said glycosaminoglycan is heparin[[/]], heparan sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate or a partially desulfated modification thereof.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A cell growth control agent characterized by ~~containing a functionalized polymer in accordance with any one of claims 1-3 consisting~~ of a functionalized polymer consisting of repeating units represented by the following formula:

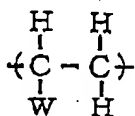


wherein, W denotes a carbohydrate chain including a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An agent for adapted to prevent ~~preventing~~ reconstruction of a blood vessel comprising ~~a functionalized polymer, said functionalized polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (1):~~



consisting of a functionalized polymer consisting of repeating units represented by the following formula:



wherein, W denotes a carbohydrate chain including a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group, ~~X, Y and Z denotes any substituent group including a hydrogen atom, and n denotes the number of repeating units of at least 1.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ An agent of claim 7, characterized in that said carbohydrate chain is a decomposed carbohydrate chain obtained by chemical decomposition of a natural glycosaminoglycan, and said decomposed carbohydrate chain is bonded to the polymer main chain via a functional group formed by said chemical decomposition.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ An agent of claim 7, characterized in that said glycosaminoglycan is heparin[[/]], heparan sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate or a ~~partially~~ desulfated modification thereof.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ An agent of claim ~~8~~ 6, characterized in that said glycosaminoglycan is heparin[[/]], heparan sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate or a ~~partially~~ desulfated modification thereof.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A functionalized polymer in accordance with claim 1 wherein said functionalized polymer has a morphology in aqueous ~~solution~~ medium comprising a core composed of the polymer main chain and said carbohydrate chains W spread out from said core in ~~solution~~ said medium.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

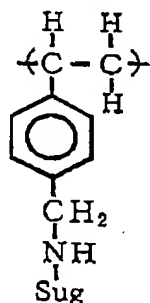
Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (New): An agent in accordance with claim 6, wherein said functionalized polymer has a morphology in aqueous medium comprising a core composed of the polymer main chain and said carbohydrate chains W spread out from said core in said medium.

Claim 18 (New): An agent in accordance with claim 7, wherein said functionalized polymer has a morphology in aqueous medium comprising a core composed of the polymer main chain and said carbohydrate chains W spread out from said core in said medium.

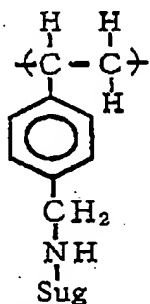
Claim 19 (New): An agent in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that said carbohydrate chain is a decomposed carbohydrate chain obtained by chemical decomposition of a natural glycosaminoglycan, and said decomposed carbohydrate chain is bonded to the polymer main chain via a functional group formed by said chemical decomposition.

Claim 20 (New): A functionalized polymer in accordance with claim 1, wherein said repeating units are represented by the following formula:



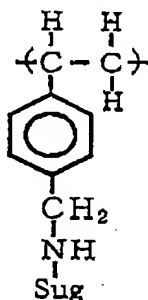
wherein Sug indicates a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group.

Claim 21 (New) An agent in accordance with claim 6, wherein said repeating units are represented by the following formula:



wherein Sug indicates a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group.

Claim 22 (New): An agent in accordance with claim 7 wherein said repeating units are represented by the following formula:



wherein Sug indicates a structure corresponding to at least a portion of the basic skeletal structure of a glycosaminoglycan and comprising 2-50 constituent disaccharide units having an average of at least one sulfate group.